

US Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District Partners In Progress

## **Public Notice**

Reply to:

ATTN CELMS-CO-F ( P-1883 )
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis MO 63103-2833

Public Notice Date August 9, 1993

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until: September 8, 1993

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Regulatory Branch
New Bourbon Regional Port Authority, P-1883 (199284750)

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
STATE OF MISSOURI

- New Bourbon Regional Port Authority, Post Office Box 366,
   Perryville, Missouri 63775, has applied:
- a. To the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers, for a Department of the Army permit to construct a slackwater harbor in a blue hole along the Mississippi River at approximate mile 120.5 above the mouth of the Ohio River. This area is currently under Corps permit P-1767 issued to Ste. Genevieve Sand and Materials, and is subject to the conditions and mitigation required of that permit until December 31, 1993, unless this permit is suspended, revoked, relinquished, or extended. P-1767 authorizes the permittee to fill in a portion of this blue hole to protect and stabilize the road out to their unloading facility. The applicant's request will be processed under joint provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- b. By way of this public notice, the applicant has applied to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Pollution Control Program, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. (See paragraph 9 of this public notice for address).
- 2. The applicant proposes to construct the slackwater harbor as a public transfer facility. The development would include a port administration building, public truck scale, warehouse, and outside storage facilities; for anticipated commerce in fertilizer, ore, scrap materials, motors, sand, and gravel. The

project will be broken into three phases, and it is estimated that the entire facility will take five (5) years to complete. Its proposed dimensions will be 500 feet in width and 515 feet in length holding a minimum depth of 12 feet of water. The existing gravel roadway will be retained and maintained with gravel. It will not be upgraded or expanded, therefore, it will not encroach onto the old Ste. Genevieve site, which is a national landmark.

- 3. Phase One of the applicants proposal involves removal of the eastern 300 feet of the existing rock dike which spans the opening of the blue hole. It also involves shaping the harbor, driving sheet pile, constructing a retaining wall on the east side of the harbor, building a floating dock, relocating a small drainage area, and constructing the wetland mitigation for the entire project. Proposed wetland mitigation will involve expanding the surface area of an existing blue hole (located behind the most riverward ring levee see Sheet 2 of 5), and creating approximately 10.2 acres of emergent wetlands. Materials from the eastern section of the dike will be placed on the remaining section of the dike to fortify and buffer the bank line.
- 4. Phase Two involves driving sheet pile and placing a floating dock on the south side of the harbor, constructing a truck scale, and fabricating miscellaneous outbuildings. Phase Three involves driving sheet pile and placing a floating dock on the west side of the harbor, adding additional truck access and facilities, and removing the remaining approximate 130 feet of rock dike to allow full harbor access. It is estimated that 53,000 cubic yards of rock, sand, and soil will be excavated from the blue hole, and 145,500 cubic yards of back fill will be required for the harbor and attendant facilities.
- Based on our initial preapplication meetings with the applicant and the resource agencies, several areas of concern were raised. These involved potential primary and secondary impacts to the old Ste. Genevieve site which is a national landmark, potential for flooding and massive bank instability if the dike were removed, potentially hazardous navigation, potential for pollution of the aquatic environment, and destruction of spawning habitat for catfish and other organisms that utilize blue holes to breed. No rare, endangered, or threatened species have been documented at the project site. this time, it is not known if the action will result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.
- 6. A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that this

proposed activity would not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited by this public notice from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

- Any interested parties, particularly navigation interests, Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local association whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before geptember 8, 1993. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the quidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be issued only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.
- 8. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.
- 9. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice should be

submitted to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, within 30 days of the date of this notice. Mrs. Karen Meldrum, telephone (314) 331-8579, may be contacted for additional information.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Danny D. McClendon Michael A. Brazier Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually posted for 30 days from the date of the issuance of this notice.





